



Becoming Catholic

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B - September 15th, 2024



Greetings OCIA Family!

We are so excited to finally get started with OCIA this Sunday! We will begin our discussions over the next few weeks talking about the Mass. See you after the 10am Mass!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Overview of the Gospel:

Since last Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus has fed four thousand people with just seven loaves of bread and a few fishes (Mark 8:1-21), and healed a blind man (vv 22- 26). He has gone from the Gentile area of the Decapolis (Mark 7:31), to Dalmanutha, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, where he is confronted by the Pharisees (Mark 8:10-13), then to Bethsaida, on the north shore of that same sea (Mark 8:22).

This Sunday's Gospel reading (a longer version of which is found in Mt 16:13-28), finds Jesus and his disciples at the town of Caesarea Philippi, located at the headwaters of the Jordan River. Site of the ancient city of Paneas, it was once home to a temple built to the pagan deity Pan (god of sheep and shepherds), carved into a massive rock wall.

In Mark's gospel, this passage serves as a key point. It relates Jesus' clear self revelation of himself as the long awaited Messiah, and his disciple's first recognition of that fact. It also introduces the necessity of Jesus being a suffering Messiah, and for his disciples to accept suffering for the sake of his name (Col 1:24, Rom 8:17). When Jesus speaks of his cross (v 34), the graphic image of the crucifixion would hardly need to be explained to his disciples.

"How hard and painful does this appear! The Lord has required that "whoever will come after him must deny himself." But what He commands is neither hard nor painful when He himself helps us in such a way so that the very thing He requires may be accomplished...For whatever seems hard in what is enjoined, love makes easy." —St. Augustine

USCCB Sunday Readings

God bless you!
—Rodney and Bessie Geilenfeldt

Unsubscribing with the link below will remove you from the Constant Contact database entirely. To unsubscribe to only this email list (OCIA), please email: officeassistant@stthomascda.org